

COMMUNICATION.

TO THE EDITORS.

Sirs: Notwithstanding the many arguments which continue to be urged in support of the annexation of Texas, it appears to me that the cotton growers of this Union, and those who are in possession of slaves, looking to Texas as a market by which they might rid themselves of such property, have hitherto overlooked their true position. For, although it might be admitted that whilst cotton was at twenty cents per pound, and the supply not equal to the demand, Texas presented a favorable field for the adventurous planter; yet, now, that the quantity produced has so greatly increased as to cause the price to fall to a ruinous rate, does it not look like insanity for them to press a measure which must have the effect of not only increasing the quantity of that article, but of further so reducing the price as to leave the grower at the mercy of the purchaser? But the slave owner who looked forward to Texas as a market for his slaves is even in a worse position; because he was now to convey his slaves thither without taking into consideration the expense attending their removal, or the chance of loss or danger on the route, may it not be asked what hope can be entertained of disposing of them at any price to persons who would have the means of paying for them? Whilst, if sold to Texas new settlers the only chance of payment must rest on the means afforded by their new owner by the proceeds of the slave's labor, of which there cannot be the shadow of a hope by the cultivation of cotton. Again, are not our planters, by admitting Texas cotton, which is now kept out by a duty of three cents per pound, about to enslave the monopoly of our home manufactures, which even now amount to nearly 500,000 bales?

These are incontrovertible facts, and I would recommend the parties so interested to reflect before it be too late, and before they sacrifice their present defensible position to the intrigues of Texas land-jobbers and Texas scrip and bond-holders; and to consider this view of the matter, also of the clasp-tran about colonizing Great Britain to this country for the article of cotton, which the annexation of Texas, it was stated, must accomplish. This hope, however remote, Mr. Secretary Calhoun has taken special care to defeat by opening the eyes of the British Government on that most important subject, and I will here refer to the words made use of by him in his memorable letter to Mr. Kew, our Minister at Paris. "When referring to the British colonial possessions, he says:

"They are of vast extent beyond the Cape of Good Hope, possessed of an unlimited amount of labor, standing ready by the aid of British capital to supply the deficit which would be occasioned by destroying the tropical productions of the United States, Cuba, Brazil, and other countries cultivated by slave labor on this Continent, so soon as the increased price in consequence would yield a profit. It is the successful competition of that labor which keeps the price of the great tropical staples so low as to prevent their cultivation with profit in the possessions of Great Britain, by what she is pleased to call free labor. If she can destroy its competition she would have a monopoly in these productions. She has all the means of furnishing an unlimited supply, vast and fertile possessions in both Indies, boundless command of capital and labor, and ample power to suppress disturbances and preserve order throughout her wide domain."

Now, without referring to the other parts of Mr. Calhoun's letter, I would ask if any exposé could possibly be better calculated to stimulate Great Britain to more prompt action against slavery? I take leave to refer to some facts which will show that Mr. Calhoun, when commenting on "that which Great Britain calls free labor," has greatly overrated his own information on that important subject, and in doing so, I will confine myself to those measures now acting upon by the British Government in order to supply with coolie laborers those admitted fertile lands to which Mr. Calhoun's letter has reference.

It is known that the population from which the coolie laborers are recruited is so dense and inexhaustible that in 1838 more than half a million of unemployed coolies perished in India of starvation, and that an experiment of the laboring qualities of that class has already been made in Demarara, (British Guiana), the result of which will more fully appear by referring to an extract of the report submitted to the British Parliament in July, 1843, as follows:

"From the highly satisfactory report of the coolies on High-bury and Waterloo estates, as well as from the equally satisfactory account of those employed on the Anna Regina estate, it is earnestly to be hoped that Government will consider that the period has arrived when all restrictions preventing the free people in India from immigrating to the West Indies may with propriety be withdrawn."

Extract from a report made by the Sheriff under whose care the coolies were placed to Governor Light, of Demarara:

"I must add my testimony to their exceeding good conduct during the time they have been in this colony, constantly under my own observation. To their credit, not a single case of a criminal nature has occurred amongst them; and in regard to labor, they have, I must state, without meaning any disparagement to our own negro population, executed their work in a much more steady and satisfactory manner."

The Governor also, in a letter to Lord Stanley, states:

"Industry protected and amply rewarded assure to the people of India the means of acquiring wealth here which they cannot obtain in their native land."

Now to these facts it will be borne in mind that the wages paid to the coolie laborers, with which they were so well satisfied, was only two dollars and a half per month, with rice and salt fish. And having thus far disposed of the information from Demarara, I take leave to add that the British Government, in order to strengthen their plans, have made a further experiment in the Mauritius, by which it appears that so anxious were the coolies to emigrate, that from the 1st January, 1843, to the 7th January, 1844, one hundred and seventy-three vessels conveyed 33,599 coolies to that island, and that the Government was obliged to put an immediate check to the immigration to prevent the place being overrun; although the papers submitted to Parliament state the wages to be even less than at Demarara, being for effective agricultural laborers only five rupees per month for men and three rupees for women.

Having thus, I presume, afforded ample proof that free labor can be had, I will now refer to a statement which appeared in the London Morning Herald last September, showing that the British Government had in the West Indies colonies and islands the following quantities of lands applicable to the cultivation of cotton, sugar, tobacco, rice, &c.

Guiana, say Demarara.....33,707,000 acres.
Jamaica.....5,466,000 do.
Trinidad.....3,027,000 do.
The lesser islands.....635,000 do.

Making a total of.....33,836,100 acres.

Whilst with regard to the quality of the lands of Guiana, I would refer to Schomburgk's report, recently made to the British Government, which, among other things, sets forth that nearly as 1803 Guiana shipped a cargo of 46,435 bales of cotton, the cultivation of which was done chiefly by a small number of labor now in progress of being supplied, sugar yield, that period a greater profit than cotton; although, if we look at the fact, it will be seen that the quantity shipped from Guiana was nearly equal to the crop of this country for eleven years after. Whilst, as regards the quality, Guiana at Liverpool in October could Demarara at 7d. and cottons 5d. In addition to the capabilities of Guiana, it is known that Trinidad possesses several additional advantages over that colony; amongst others, that of every part of fertile island being within a day's travel of the coast. In the mean time, Jamaica also appears alive on the subject, the House of Assembly having voted a large sum to be applied to experiments in cotton cultivation, and which have resulted in a most satisfactory manner. Added to the foregoing facts of many of the smaller British West India islands being the face of every difficulty from paucity of labor, and inefficient cotton cultivation.

Will, therefore, now ask how far Mr. Calhoun's project of establishing slave labor against the efforts of free labor is to be considered tenable? If we are to estimate working slaves at the low price of five hundred dollars each, and assume that a plantation requires one hundred workers, this would make the investment in slaves fifty thousand dollars. To only ten per cent, to cover the interest, depreciation in value, deaths, &c., it would place the annual charge of one at the low rate of fifty dollars, or four dollars seventeen cents per month; opposed to which will be the hire of coolies, nothing no investment, and who, as already testified, will perform their work in every way better than a negro, and at a half dollar per month or thirty dollars per year. We therefore believe that when this astounding difference

is brought to bear particularly against the millions of capital which slave labor actually calls for, and from which coolie labor is exempt, that any further attempt to drive the produce of such free labor out of the market, by producing a cheaper article from the labor of slaves, must be looked upon as a project which it is not worth the while to attempt. It is now remains to be noticed that some of the coolies are on their passage from India to Demarara and Trinidad, and although the expense of such passage might appear an obstacle, yet, if their labor after arrival be first applied to the cultivation of sugar, and each coolie produce only one hundredweight of sugar in the year, the duty on that hundredweight, being over twenty pounds sterling, would defray the expense of two coolies instead of one. The British Government are also now aware of the advantage of supplying her own colonies with machinery, clothing, &c., as every resident therein is twenty times more benefited to the parent country than if the same means were adopted in producing articles for British consumption from any foreign slave possession.

It is surprising that Mr. Calhoun should have given such publicity to his peculiar views of this subject, when he ought to have been aware of the certainty of his routing Great Britain, were the ignorant of her advantageous position; and I shall not be surprised if he has stimulated the British Government to more prompt action than they had previously contemplated. A short time will also show how far his hope of France sustaining slavery is well founded; for, in addition to other movements now in progress to put an end to slavery in the French colonies, His Holiness the Pope has addressed a Bull to all Catholic Governments denouncing the system as criminal and sinful.

I will admit that there is a solitary chance in favor of Mr. Calhoun's views, and which will be found in the opposition made by the British Government and free traders against sustaining slavery in the hope of their thereby facilitating the subversion of the monarchy; but, with who are wide awake to such matters, I fancy there is little room to calculate on the measures of that Government being defeated.

I have also to observe that there is every prospect of extensive establishments being forthwith made in the interior of Africa, with a view to the civilization of that unhappy race; and as the lands intended to be brought under cultivation are such as will produce those articles now in demand from this Union, Cuba, and Brazil, there is no doubt that it is intended that the coolies shall aid in the plan now in contemplation to put an end to slavery and the slave trade. It is to be regretted that England, hitherto the customer for two-thirds of the slave produce of this country, should be compelled to adopt measures for the withdrawal of that custom and its transfer to her own colonies and subjects. This, it is evident, the new world would have resented, had it not been for the unpardonable vanity of our own politicians, some of whom appear always to be acting as if England bestrode them like the nightmare, and deprived them of their natural rest. But, were the Ministers of that country not now to take advantage of this unhappy debate of ours, they would be exposed to the just execrations of every enemy of slavery throughout the world; whilst their neglecting to avail themselves of those means for promoting the prosperity of England so clearly pointed out by Mr. Secretary Calhoun, would more than warrant their impeachment.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN JAY.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 10, 1845.

FROM EUROPE.

The packet-ship Rochester has arrived at New York, bringing London papers to the evening of the 5th ultimo, and Paris papers to the 3d—being two days later than before received.

The new royal mail ship *Cambria*, Capt. JUDKINS, was to leave Liverpool on the 4th instant, on her first trip to Halifax and Boston.

In the absence of domestic intelligence of special interest, the London journals are filled with extracts from India papers, brought by the overland India mail despatched from Bombay on the 1st of November. The only place in which any disturbance of the general tranquillity exists is at Kolapore, where, the Rajah being a minor, the Government has been administered by various agents, who, by acts of despotism and oppression, drove the people into resistance. The Rajah being allowed by the treaties to maintain 1,000 men, his forces were sent into the provinces to put down the rebellion. The insurgents soon routed them, and then retired into the mountain fastnesses. One of them, Samnagur, was taken by storm on the 13th of October, and a portion of the garrison who were put to the sword by the British troops that were invited to aid the Rajah's agents in suppressing the insurrection. The loss of the insurgents in killed is stated at between five and six hundred men, with many prisoners. The loss on the side of the British was very slight. Two English officers, Lieuts. Irvine and Shakespeare, were killed, and one, Capt. Silver, died from cholera during the operations. There were still six other forts to be subdued.

The Paris papers present little of interest. The marriage of the Duke d'Angoulême with his cousin, the Princess Marie Caroline of Salerno, daughter of the Prince of Salerno, uncle of the King of Naples, and brother of the Queen of the French, took place at Naples on the 25th of November. The *Courrier Français* announces that a large number of Knights of the Legion of Honor are to be dubbed on New Year's Day; and the *Presse* adds, that at least eight new peers are about to be created, including Mr. Victor Hugo, Baron de Bourgoing, and the Dukes de Valency and de Padua.

Intelligence from MADRID to the 26th November confirms the accounts of the execution of BENITO ZERANZO, one of the revolted General, and also of his uncle, JEAN MARTINEZ, both of whom were shot at Logrono, together with their two sons. Their execution, on the mere proof of their identity, and without even the semblance of a trial, seems to have greatly shocked public opinion in France. Of Zeranzo no authentic tidings had as yet reached Madrid. Some said that he had died, others that he was concealed on the banks of the Elbro, or that he had found his way to Portugal. There are reports from the insurgents in the prisons of Logrono, and the orders of the Government, that they should all be shot. A report was prevalent in Madrid that General Pavia had been rescued by a party of cavalry on his way to Cadix, to be transported for imprisonment in Cuba.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

The packet ship *Garrick* arrived at New York on Wednesday, having left Liverpool on the 12th of December, which is six days later than the dates of the previous arrival.

Letters from Gibraltar of the 30th November say that on the 29th the United States frigate *Cumberland*, accompanied by the corvettes *Fairfield* and *Plymouth*, arrived in the bay from Mahon. The *Fairfield* carried out. Lian is the destination of the *Cumberland* and *Plymouth*.

The Bishop of Exeter's letter to the clergy of his diocese is creating great excitement. Remonstrances are pouring in from nearly every parish, and several distinguished Churchmen have expressed their conviction that a firm stand must now be made against the Romish tendency in the establishment.

Murders and midnight assassinations appear to increase in Ireland. On the 6th ultimo the house of a man named Powell was attacked by four armed ruffians. Powell defended the entrance, armed with a pitchfork. A gun was levelled at him through the window, but his daughter placed a pillow against the window, which received the contents of the piece. The ruffians retreated, and the men decamped. A similar attack was made upon the house of a widow. She despatched her son for assistance; he was shot at but escaped. An Irish weekly paper contains the accounts of no less than ten similar outrages. On the 9th ultimo, at the regular meeting of the Reform Association, Mr. O'Connell bitterly denounced Louis Philippe as a tyrant and usurper.

FRANCE.

The Paris papers of the 19th are wholly devoid of interest. The new law was adjudged to Messrs. Rothchild, Didier & Baillon, by the representatives of the Receiver General, at the very high rate of 444,750. A letter from Tahiti of June 24 states that henceforward the Chiefs of Wallis and the Gambier Islands and the Island of Fontaine are under the protection of France, and Government has ordered a vessel to these new acquisitions to notify that they will be forthwith occupied.

SPAIN.

The accounts from Madrid are of the 24 ultimo. General Prim had arrived at Carolina. In the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the discussion was resumed, and terminated in the next sitting. The article concerning the power of the Sovereign to contract marriage, as modified by the Government proposition, and with the clause added by the committee in relation to the possibility of a Carlist alliance, was carried in the Congress by 120 votes against 37. The article which attributed the Regency to the nearest relative of the Sovereign was also carried by a large majority.

The failure of Martin Zubizarro's attempt to raise the standard of insurrection is considered important, as indicating a consolidation of power for some time in the hands of those who now hold it. Zubizarro had not yet been discovered. Accounts from the frontier report the summary execution of his third son, together with other disaffected persons.

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1845.

THE TREATY WITH CHINA.

We had supposed that we should have been able to lay before our readers to-day a copy of the Treaty with China, just ratified by the Senate. We find, however, upon inquiry, that the question of publicity as to that instrument rests with the President, to whom it has been, as treaties always are, returned by the Senate in the same confidence in which it was communicated. The injunction of secrecy has, however, been removed by the Senate from the proceedings upon the Treaty, and, subject to the discretion of the Committee on Foreign Relations, from such parts of the papers communicated with the Treaty as it may not be deemed inexpedient to publish. The papers thus allowed to be made public we hope to lay before our readers at an early day. For the present, we are only enabled to furnish the vote upon the ratification of the Treaty as follows:

Vote of the Senate on the Resolution for the Ratification of the Treaty of Ta Tsing Empire (China) January 16, 1845.

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Archer, Ashley, Atchison, Atherton, Barrow, Bates, Bayard, Berrien, Breese, Buchanan, Choate, Clayton, Colquitt, Crittenden, Dayton, Dickinson, Evans, Fairfield, Francis, Hammege, Henderson, Huger, James, Johnson, Mangum, Merrick, Miller, Morehead, Niles, Pearce, Phelps, Porter, Rives, Sevier, Simmons, Starbuck, Tappan, Upham, Walker, Woodbridge, and Woodbury—42.

NAYS—None.

UNITED STATES SENATORS.

The Hon. JOHN M. CLAYTON was on Tuesday last elected a Senator of the United States for the State of DELAWARE, to serve for six years from the 3d day of March next.

The Hon. REVERDY JOHNSON was on Thursday last elected a Senator of the United States for the State of MARYLAND, for the term of six years from the 3d day of March next.

And the Hon. DANIEL WEBSTER has been elected a Senator of the United States for the State of MASSACHUSETTS, for the term of six years from the 3d day of March next. The vote for Mr. WEBSTER in the House of Representatives of his State was 186, against 64 for Mr. MORTON, and two scattering—a choice in which the Senate unanimously concurred.

All of these gentlemen, as our readers know, are among the most distinguished members of the Whig party.

MASSACHUSETTS AND LOUISIANA.

The Letter of our New Orleans Correspondent, which will be found in another column, informs us of the fact, that, in respect to the agent of Massachusetts, deputed to the State of Louisiana to act in her behalf in reference to supposed invasion of the rights of her (colored free) citizens, New Orleans has followed suit to Charleston, and that the agent of Massachusetts has found himself compelled to flee from New Orleans, instead of being allowed to maintain there, in the courts of law, the supremacy of the laws, which ought every where to be vindicated, however high or however low the rank of a society in which opposition to it finds countenance.

To avoid misapprehension of our views of this subject, we think it proper to say that we do not agree in sentiment with our New Orleans correspondent on this subject, and that we cannot refrain from expressing our regret that that city should, in this instance, have followed the example of the city of Charleston, in a course inconsistent with the duties of hospitality, with constitutional right, and with the consciousness of a just cause.

At a Whig meeting lately held in Boston, Mr. MOREY read some extracts from a letter which he had within a few days received from Mr. WEBSTER, in which that gentleman distinctly asserts, that in the last speech which he made in Faneuil Hall, upon the subject of Native Americanism, he did not suggest, and had no idea of suggesting, the formation of a new party to carry out the objects which he then advocated; but, on the contrary, it is his firm belief that, if any reforms are to be made in the premises, these reforms must emanate from the Whig party, and be carried through by that party.

THE REVOLUTION IN MEXICO.—If Santa Anna is overthrown, and a new dynasty succeed, we do not see, as some of our contemporaries do, that annexation is to be furthered by it, without a war with Mexico. If the rumors *via* New Orleans be true, there is but little division among the Mexicans, and order will soon be re-established. Again, we suspect that Santa Anna was more friendly to the United States, and to Texas too, than any chief who will be likely to succeed. It is certain that one of the charges against him in Mexico has been for such friendliness. And it is certain, too, that no man, or party, can keep power long in Mexico, that does not resist to the death the severance of Texas from Mexico.

Paredes, the chief mover in the revolution, urged, as one of the mal-administrations of Santa Anna, that he had not prosecuted the measures for the re-conquest of Texas with the alacrity which the popular wish demanded. The lower classes of Mexico are decidedly for the acquisition of this lost territory at any cost; and the whole recent official conduct of Santa Anna proves that he temporized with the matter for the purpose of evading this popular desire.

From Mexico itself, united or divided by revolution, we have but little to apprehend in case of a war. It is from the swarms of privateers under the Mexican flag, that mischief and danger to the country will come. Let us not hug to our bosoms the delusion that we can steal Texas with impunity, because Mexico is in a civil war.—*N. Y. Express.*

Sixty thousand people visited the late fair of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association in Boston, and the number of contributors amounted to 1373, being an excess of 217 over that of the preceding exhibition. There were two hundred judges upon the various articles exhibited, who awarded twenty-six gold medals, one hundred and forty-eight silver medals, and two hundred and ninety-six diplomas, as testimonials of merit, and they received as the sum for admittance to the exhibition \$15,132 75.

BOSTON MUNICIPAL ELECTION.—A fourth unsuccessful trial was made for the choice of Mayor of the city of Boston on Monday last. Mr. WITMORE having declined another canvass, the Whig candidate was SAMUEL A. ELIOT, who received 3,713 votes; Mr. DAVIS, the Native candidate, received 3,993; Mr. GREENE, Democratic, had 2,066, and there were 57 scattering votes. Mr. ELIOT has gained somewhat on the Whig vote cast at the third trial, but unless that party will rally to the support of their candidate, there appears to be but little hope that the city will soon have an organized government.

MORE "ANNEXATION."

What we apprehended and deprecated, it appears, by the following article from a Detroit paper, is actually coming to pass; and the "annexation" of Canada is to be insisted upon as a counterpoise to the proposed annexation of Texas. This Government has no pretence of claim to Canada, it is true; but, according to our view of the subject, quite as much as it has to Texas. There are natives of the United States in Canada as well as in Texas, and even more of them; and the project of the annexation of Canada may at least claim the support of those whose conclusive argument in favor of the annexation of Texas is that "it will enlarge the area of human freedom."

We trust, after all, however, that our friends in Michigan are not in earnest in their memorial in favor of the annexation of Canada, but intend it only as an *argumentum ad absurdum* against the annexation of Texas.

FROM THE DETROIT DAILY ADVERTISER, JANUARY 10. COUNTER ANNEXATION.—The citizens of Detroit are generally well satisfied with the Union as it is. They have never sought to extend its limits for their own sectional advantage, against the wishes of other sections of our common country. They gave a memorable example of their moderation and fidelity, under strong temptations, during the late Canadian troubles. But they are not insensible to the value of the country lying on their North, or indifferent to their own relative weight as Northern men in the Councils of the Union. And the pending propositions for the annexation of Texas, with more or less prospect of ultimate success, have at length moved them to serious action.

A petition to Congress for the acquisition of Canada, contemporaneously with that of Texas, is now in general circulation among our citizens. It has already received, we understand, numerous signatures, among which are found the names of our most respectable, sober, and influential citizens—men who are not likely to turn back in their undertaking. Many men will doubtless be added. The prayer of the petitioners is that negotiations for the cession of Canada may be opened with the British Government, and that in any proposed treaty for the annexation of Texas a provision may be inserted that the same shall not take effect until Canada has also been annexed. The reasons set forth are two-fold. First, that the addition of Texas to the South demands the like addition of Canada to the North, in order to preserve the just balance and equipoise of the Union. Second, that Canada is in itself a most desirable acquisition for the United States, with a view both to military defence and to commercial intercourse.

Such are the views which many of the best citizens of Detroit, without distinction of party, are about to lay before Congress. We invite them the attention of our fellow-citizens elsewhere, and, if they approve, their active co-operation and aid. Other portions of Michigan, we doubt not, will cordially concur, and all along Northern New York and Vermont should anticipate a warm and effective response. The whole North, indeed, is deeply interested. What say you, fellow-citizens?

The proposition, it will be seen, is conditional. If Texas comes in, then Canada. But if Southern annexation is abandoned, then the Northern will share the same fate. The North, strong in its own resources and free energies, never encroaches or invades—nor should it ever submit to encroachment or invasion.

FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

Accounts from Rio Janeiro have been received to the 17th November. The United States frigate *Raritan*, Com. TURNER, had visited Montevideo in consequence of the seizure of the Argentine squadron by Captain VOORHIES. Commodore T. had satisfactorily settled the affair with the Argentine Government. He fully sustained Captain Voorhies in the decided measures he took in the beginning of the trouble.

The navigation of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal continues to be entirely unobstructed by ice. See the advantages in this respect that we may enjoy over the water internal improvements at the North.—*Alexandria Gazette*, Jan. 11.

RHODE ISLAND.—The Legislature of Rhode Island has assigned Wednesday next for the choice of a Senator in Congress. Saturday next is assigned for the consideration of the petition for the liberation of Thomas W. Dorr. In the House on Thursday a resolution was presented recommending the passage of an act referring all matters in dispute in relation to the boundary between Rhode Island and Massachusetts to Commissioners, provided a similar act be passed by Massachusetts. After some debate, in which it was suggested that the long-pending controversy in the Supreme Court of the United States was causing great expense, the resolution was referred to a committee.

NO SENATOR FROM INDIANA.

The Senate of Indiana have consummated the outrage so shamefully begun. Resolutions provided for an election of Senator were indefinitely postponed on Thursday week, in the Senate of that State, by the casting vote of Jesse D. BASSETT, Lieutenant Governor of the State and President of the Senate. The Constitution of the State has thus been set at naught, and the will of the people trampled in the dust at the behest of a reckless partisan spirit. The Whig majority on joint ballot in the Legislature of Indiana is eight or ten. Upon this Legislature devolved the duty of electing a Senator; but a factious Senate, determined to prevent the election of a Whig Senator, has resisted every appeal and made a mockery of the solemnity of an oath. Under ordinary circumstances, such a movement could not fail to arouse the deepest indignation throughout the State; but when we recollect that the Locofoco party of Indiana have secured one Senator by treachery—by seducing from his duty a Whig member—we cannot but be shocked at the hardihood of the present movement.

Col. GEORGE C. WASHINGTON AND GEN. JOHN T. MASON, Commissioners appointed under the provisions of the Cherokee treaty of 1835, with Col. ARMISTEAD, their Secretary, passed through Little Rock, Arkansas, towards the close of December, on their way to the Cherokee nation.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY 15.

MURDER.—A young Irish man named PAUL ROUX, ascertained by papers found in his possession, to be a hardware merchant of Macon, Georgia, arrived in this city from Philadelphia on Saturday night, and put up at the house of Thomas Voland, keeper of a small tavern in South Charles street. On Monday night he was found dead in his bed, with his throat cut from ear to ear, and his skull broken with an axe, which had been thrown under the bed after the commission of the deed. The murderer is supposed to be a young man named Henry McCurry, who roomed with the deceased on Sunday night, and left for Philadelphia on Monday night, about half an hour before the murder was discovered. Officers have gone in pursuit of him. The deceased was a member of the Odd Fellows Society, and his remains have been taken charge of by the Odd Fellows of this city, by whom they will be interred.

We were informed through Professor MORSE's Telegraph yesterday evening that Officer RICELEY, of Baltimore, who went in pursuit of McCurry, succeeded in overtaking him at New York, where he was arrested on Thursday morning and duly committed to prison to await the requisition of the Governor of Maryland. McCurry had shipped on board a vessel which was prepared to sail for England on the day of his discovery. In his possession was found the gold watch of Mr. ROUX, as well as his purse and other articles, which were identified by a personal friend of the deceased.

NAVY.—The U. S. brig *Oregon*, Lt. Com'd SINKLAIR, from Chagres, arrived in Hampton Roads on Friday night. Mr. BLACKBURN, our Chargé d'Affaires to Bogota, did not, as was expected, come home in the *Oregon*. Lieut. Sinclair waited his arrival at Chagres as long as his duty would permit, and then set sail.

MASSACHUSETTS SENATOR.

At a meeting of the Whig Members of both branches of the Legislature of Massachusetts, on the evening of last Monday, the chairman communicated a letter from the Hon. RUFUS CHOATE, as follows:

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 8, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR: Although my friends have been long aware of my determination in regard to a re-election to the Senate, and I had requested you before I left Boston to make it known at the earliest moment, yet it may be proper again to request you somewhat more formally to do so.

I beg you, then, to apprise the Whig members of the Legislature that I decline to be a candidate for re-election.

In doing this, I could wish also to convey to them my deep sense of the honor conferred on me at first by an election to a place so far above not only my pretensions, but my hopes, and of the general kindness and indulgence by which I have been sustained in it.

It has been a situation full of interest and instruction, as well as responsibility and dignity, in which I would have been most agreeable to me to remain if I could have felt myself equal to its great duties, and if the urgency of private considerations did not strongly advise a return to the practice of my profession. In leaving it, I cannot forbear to say that I retain the most constant devotion to the general principles of our political organization; and, in whatever sphere or employment, shall hold myself ready to co-operate in all due exertions to advance the prosperity of our State and of the country, by securing their ascendancy in the administration.

I am, most truly, your friend,

RUFUS CHOATE.

To JOSEPH BELL, Esq.

After the letter was read, it was unanimously resolved, That this meeting, representing, as they believe, the sentiments of the Whigs of the Commonwealth, receive with deep regret this expression of desire on the part of the Hon. RUFUS CHOATE to withdraw from his seat in the councils of the nation.

Resolved, as the unanimous sense of the meeting, That the fidelity, the ability, and the patriotism with which Mr. CHOATE has discharged his trust—the earnestness and the eloquence with which he has asserted the rights of the Commonwealth, and maintained the honor, the true interests, the integrity, and the constitutional union of the States, eminently entitle him to the confidence and respect, and receive the unqualified approbation of his constituents.

Resolved, That the letter of Mr. CHOATE, addressed to this meeting, together with the foregoing resolutions, be offered for publication to the Whig papers printed in the city of Boston; and that a copy of the resolutions, signed by the chairman and secretary, be transmitted to Mr. CHOATE by the committee which reported them.

We understand that, at the same meeting, DANIEL WEBSTER was unanimously nominated as the Whig candidate for United States Senator for six years from the 4th of March next. Yesterday (Thursday) was the time fixed for proceeding to the election.

THE CHEROKEE DIFFICULTIES.

The Cherokee Advocate of the 26th ultimo informs us that the United States Commissioners to inquire into certain complaints of grievances in the formation and administration of the Cherokee Government, were assiduously engaged in prosecuting the business committed to their charge, and, having completed their investigations at Fort Gibson, were daily expected to arrive in Tahlequah, there to renew them.

The Commissioners are GEN. ROGER JONES, Col. RICHARD B. MASON, and PIERCE M. BUTLER. Their first Council was convened on the 4th ultimo, at the mouth of the Illinois river, some thirty-five miles southwest of Tahlequah, where a number of the people had assembled. The business was commenced by a brief address to the people from General JONES, on behalf of the Commissioners, who formally announced their appointment, the nature and objects of their duties, and their desire to act with impartiality—advising his hearers at the same time patiently to await the result of the investigation, and exhorting them to peace and mindfulness that they were brethren of one race, all alike responsible to the Great Spirit for their deeds, &c. The complaints of the "Old Settlers" were then first attended to, and adjourned meetings were subsequently held at the "Old Agency" and at "Fort Gibson," where the registering of names and other objects of the commission were further prosecuted. The "Old Settlers" and "Treaty Party," whose complaints gave rise to the mission, had each a committee of twenty-four to represent them. The Committee on the part of the Nation, before the investigation was begun, laid in a protest against the execution of the commission. "This was done," says the Advocate, not because they fear the most searching scrutiny, but because, among other reasons, the power assumed by the President of the United States in instituting the commission exhibits a new feature in the policy heretofore pursued towards the Indians, and infringes upon a right which has always been secured to them, and which the Cherokees ever have and ever will cling to with watchful and undying devotion—the right of self-government."

RHODE ISLAND AND NEW HAMPSHIRE.

In the lower House of the Rhode Island Legislature, on Friday last, Mr. CRANSTON, from the Joint Committee on Resolutions of the Legislature of New Hampshire, in relation to the imprisonment of Thomas W. Dorr, reported the following resolutions, which were passed:

"Whereas certain resolutions of the General Court of the State of New Hampshire, in relation to the trial and imprisonment of Thomas W. Dorr, passed on the 27th day of December, 1844, have been transmitted by the Governor of that State to his excellency the Governor of this State, and by him have been communicated to this General Assembly, and it appears from said resolutions that the same are to be communicated to both Houses of Congress, and to the Governors of the several States and Territories:

"Resolved by this General Assembly, That said resolutions, marked as they are by the grossest falsehood, ignorance, and impertinence, are at once disgraceful to the Legislature of New Hampshire, and insulting to the Governor and People of Rhode Island.

"Therefore, Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to return said resolutions to the Governor of New Hampshire, accompanied by a copy of these resolutions, and that his excellency the Governor be requested to transmit a